

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KESSAI NOTE'S FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I join with many of my colleagues in offering a heartfelt welcome to the new President of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)—Kessai Note. It is his first visit to our country since becoming President and it represents an affirmation of the strong ties between our two countries.

President Note was at the forefront of the movement to establish the Marshall Islands as a self-governing democracy. However, he has also always been a strong supporter of RMI's uniquely close and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship with the United States. Our long-term military alliance and permanent strategic partnership allows for a U.S. presence on Kwajalein Atoll, the site of a vital U.S. Army ballistic missile systems command.

In addition to recognizing the partnership between the U.S. and RMI, I would also like to commend the long-standing friendship between Israel and the RMI. Israel was one of the first countries to support the RMI's entry into the United Nations. Since it became a member, the RMI, along with the United States, has been one of Israel's staunchest supporters in the United Nations. Israel has further befriended the RMI by providing technical assistance and educational grants to the Republic's people.

Having experienced their own acute suffering and pain as a result of nuclear tests conducted in the Marshall Islands, the people of RMI have reached out to their Jewish neighbors, committing themselves to "putting faces on human tragedies while holding parties responsible for their actions."

Mr. Speaker, President Note's presence here today in our nation's Capitol attests to the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Republic of Marshall Islands. I hope my colleagues will join with me in commending both the nation and its President.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER LLOYD SPRINGER

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Father Lloyd Springer, who has retired after 27 years of ministry to the South Bronx. He was honored on August 25, 2000, by members of the community.

Father Springer came as priest in charge to St. Edmunds Episcopal Church, located at

177th Street and Morris Avenue, in 1973, with a vision and commitment. As a hands-on clergy, he at once began to enhance services to the congregation and to build coalitions with and feelings of empowerment in neighborhood residents. However, as soon as the church began to grow in membership, a devastating fire consumed the parish hall. While this could have been an excuse to flee the South Bronx, instead Fr. Springer worked with the Episcopal Diocese to secure a loan for renovation. Further, he looked to the needs of the neighborhood beginning with Trabajamos Head Start.

Blueprints for the renovation of four abandoned buildings across from the church were gathering dust when Brien O'Toole, a community organizer from the North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, came to the Mt. Hope neighborhood. Fr. Springer agreed to provide space in the church office and the Mt. Hope Organization was born. A coalition of tenants, churchgoers, homeowners and community leaders met regularly in St. Edmunds' undercroft to address and plan how they would solve the growing problems of abandoned housing stock, drugs, and poor services. The priority for St. Edmunds was the four abandoned buildings across from the church, because drug dealing there posed a danger to all the community, and especially to the community's children. On the site, St. Edmund's Court, with 110 housing units for both community residents and the City's homeless, was opened in 1989 with the Honorable Edward I. Koch presiding.

Mr. Speaker, after this success, the Mt. Hope Organization formed a management company and began working with the City to reclaim other abandoned buildings. Father Springer led marches and meetings with elected officials, and the result was 1,200 more units of housing renovated for low- and moderate-income families.

Father Springer became the first president of the Board of the Mt. Hope Housing Company, a new Community Development Corporation providing housing, social services, jobs, and job training for residents of the community. During the six years under Fr. Springer's leadership, the Mt. Hope Housing Company did as much work as many larger and longer established Community Development Corporations.

Under Fr. Springer's leadership, and in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese and, later, with Episcopal Charities, an After School and Food Bank Program was established. Leaders of the Mt. Hope/St. Edmunds community petitioned the Bronx Borough President for a decent playground, and in 1993 a major capital improvement grant of \$870,000 for construction of the St. Edmunds/Mt. Hope Playground was announced at the corner of 177th and Walton Avenue. Parishioners also began to serve an Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless.

These accomplishments energized the community, and Fr. Springer and members launched a search for an organization that would address the inadequate health services

available at that time. The Institute for Urban Family Health and the Primary Care Development Corporation became partners with St. Edmunds and Walton Family Health Center opened its doors. This health facility now serves about 900 families yearly. St. Edmunds is also a partner in a new Reach 2010 project, which is looking at the disparities in health care in urban settings, and in particularly the high incidence of diabetes and hypertension among Blacks and Hispanics in the South Bronx.

Father Springer's commitment not only to his parish, St. Edmunds, but also to the Mt. Hope Community as a whole, including the homeless, has not gone unrecognized. As Mt. Hope Housing Company rightly stated during its 1993 award, "Father Springer's presence and wisdom, broad vision and imperturbable temperament, through trials and successes has held the neighborhood to its mission. These qualities and a passion for justice and opportunity, and an ethic of stewardship and duty have contributed mightily to making the Mt. Hope area a community equal to the dignity of its residents."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Father Lloyd Springer for his remarkable career of serving the community and bringing hope to the many individuals he has touched.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, last year, U.S. Government statistics revealed the largest U.S. trade deficit figure ever, reaching \$271 billion, a 65-percent increase over last year. This year's monthly trade numbers reveal that the United States will experience an even higher trade deficit than last year. What steps can be taken to reverse this trend?

An overlooked issue in the trade deficit debate is the role that small business exporters play in our economy. According to the Commerce Department, between 1987 and 1997, the number of small business exporters tripled, going from 66,000 to 202,000. Small businesses now account for 31 percent of total merchandise export sales spread throughout every industrial classification. What is more surprising is that the fastest growth among small business exporters has been with companies employing fewer than 20 employees. These very small businesses represented 65 percent of all exporting companies in 1997.

Despite these encouraging statistics, there is still more work that needs to be done. Even though the number of small business exporters tripled, they form less than one percent of all small businesses in the United States. Even among these cutting-edge firms, nearly two-thirds of small business exporters sold to

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